

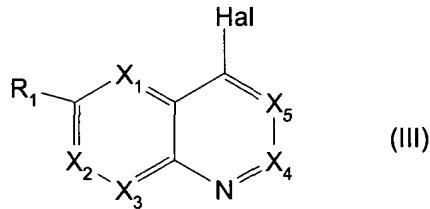
AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Without prejudice or disclaimer, please cancel claims 1-19 and add new claims 20-32.

Complete list of claims

Claims 1-19 (cancelled)

20. **(New)** A compound of formula (III)



wherein:

X_1 is $>C-R'_1$;

X_2 is $>C-R'_2$;

X_3 is $>C-R'_3$;

X_4 is $>C-R'_4$;

X_5 is $>C-F$;

and, optionally, one of X_1 , X_2 , X_3 , and X_4 is a nitrogen atom;

R_1 , R'_1 , R'_2 , R'_3 , and R'_4 are identical or different, and each independently is:

a hydrogen or halogen atom or an alkyl, cycloalkyl, phenyl, phenylthio, mono- or bicyclic aromatic heterocyclyl or heterocyclylthio, hydroxyl, alkyloxy, trifluoromethoxy, alkylthio, trifluoromethylthio, cycloalkyloxy,

cycloalkylthio, cyano, carboxyl, alkyloxycarbonyl, cycloalkyloxycarbonyl, -NRaRb or -CONRaRb radical

for which Ra and Rb are independently hydrogen, alkyl, cycloalkyl, phenyl, mono- or bicyclic aromatic heterocyclyl, or

Ra and Rb form, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, a 5- or 6-membered heterocycle which can optionally contain an additional heteroatom chosen from O, S and N and, when the additional heteroatom is N, the additional heteroatom optionally is substituted with an alkyl, phenyl or mono- or bicyclic aromatic heterocyclyl substituent and, when the additional heteroatom is S, the additional heteroatom optionally is sulfinyl or sulfonyl,

or a methylene radical substituted with fluoro, hydroxyl, alkyloxy, alkylthio, cycloalkyloxy, cycloalkylthio, phenyl, mono- or bicyclic aromatic heterocyclyl, carboxyl, alkyloxycarbonyl, cycloalkyloxycarbonyl, -NRaRb or -CONRaRb

for which Ra and Rb are defined as above, and are additionally chosen from phenoxy, heterocyclyloxy, benzyloxy, and heterocyclylmethoxy, and, optionally,

R₁ is difluoromethoxy, or a radical of structure -C_mF_{2m+1}, -SC_mF_{2m+1}, or -OC_mF_{2m+1}

wherein m is an integer from 1 to 6;

Hal is chlorine, bromine or iodine;

wherein any alkyl or acyl radical or portion, unless otherwise indicated, comprises from 1 to 10 carbon atoms in a straight or branched chain, and any

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cycloalkyl radical comprises from 3 to 6 carbon atoms;
with the proviso that the compound of formula (III) is not
3-fluoro-4-chloro-6,7-dimethoxy-quinoline.

21. **(New)** The compound as claimed in claim 20, wherein Hal is bromine or iodine.
22. **(New)** The compound as claimed in claim 20, wherein Hal is iodine.
23. **(New)** 4-Chloro-3-fluoro-6-methoxyquinoline.
24. **(New)** 4-Bromo-3-fluoro-6-methoxyquinoline.
25. **(New)** 4-Iodo-3-fluoro-6-methoxyquinoline.
26. **(New)** 3-Fluoro-6-methoxyquinoline.
27. **(New)** A process for preparing a compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein Hal is chlorine, comprising fluorinating the corresponding 4-chloro-quinoline.
28. **(New)** The process according to claim 27, wherein the compound prepared is 4-chloro-3-fluoro-6-methoxyquinoline and the starting material is 4-chloro-6-methoxyquinoline.

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29. **(New)** A process for preparing a compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein Hal is bromine, comprising brominating the corresponding 3-fluoro-4-hydroxyquinoline.
30. **(New)** The process according to claim 29, wherein the compound prepared is 4-Bromo-3-fluoro-6-methoxyquinoline.
31. **(New)** A process for preparing a compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein Hal is iodine, comprising:
contacting the corresponding 3-fluoro-quinoline with a suitable base, and
brominating the product resulting from the previous step.
32. **(New)** The process according to claim 31, wherein the compound prepared is 4-Iodo-3-fluoro-6-methoxyquinoline and the starting material is 3-fluoro-6-methoxyquinoline.

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